Claims

I claim:

1. A conjugate comprising:

(a) a first region comprising the homeodomain of antennapedia or a functional variant thereof; and

(b) a second region not naturally associated with the first region; and wherein at least the. first region is non-denatured.

2. The conjugate according to claim 1, wherein the first and second regions are associated via a disulfide bond.

3. The conjugate according to claim 2, wherein the second region comprises an NOI.

4. The conjugate according to claim 1, in the form of a fusion protein.

5. The conjugate according to claim 1, wherein the second region comprises a protein of at least 100 amino acids.

6. The conjugate according to claim 5, wherein the second region is a functional or regulatory protein.

7. The conjugate according to claim 5, wherein the second region is an antigen.

8. The conjugate according to claim 5, wherein the second region is a DNA binding domain.

9. The conjugate according to claim 8, wherein the second region further comprises an NOI.

10. The conjugate according to claim 8, wherein the second region is a histone protein.

11. The conjugate according to claim 1, wherein the second region comprises an NOI.

12. The conjugate according to claim 1, for use in an expression system.

13. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the conjugate of claim 1, in combination with a pharmaceutically-acceptable carrier.

14. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 13, in the form of a vaccine.

15. A conjugate prepared by a method comprising the steps:

(i) culturing a host cell transformed with an expression vector comprising a nucleic acid encoding a conjugate according to claim 1 under conditions which provide for the expression of the conjugate within the host cell; and

(ii) recovering the conjugate by affinity purification under non-denaturing conditions.

16. The conjugate prepared according to claim 15, wherein the conjugate comprises an amino acid tail that binds to an immobilised substrate.